the second member **5** are pivoted apart from each other within a range between about 90° and 360° so that an image displayed on the screen of the liquid crystal display unit **2** of the first member **3** can be observed. Then, the subnotebook size personal computer **1***k* is placed on a flat surface, e.g., a desktop, such that the screen of the liquid crystal display unit **2** faces upward, as shown in FIG. **12**, or is held by the user's hand.

When the subnotebook size personal computer **1***k* is set in the photographic mode, the lens barrier (not shown) exposes the lens **7***b*.

The user can change the photographing direction of the lens **7***b* by changing the pivot angle of the first member **3** with respect to the second member **5**. In the same manner as in the embodiment of FIGS. **1**A to **1**C, when the user operates the keyboard **4** while the subnotebook size personal computer **1***k* is set in the photographic mode, the image (including not only an image currently being photographed through the lens **7***b* but also an image stored in the information storage unit **4***c* (see FIG. **1**B) of the subnotebook size personal computer **1***k* and reproduced on the liquid crystal display unit **2**) displayed on the liquid crystal display unit **2** can be processed by various types of processing programs.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details, and representative devices shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable information processing apparatus comprising:

a first member provided with an information display unite said first member having an outer surface for exposing the information display unit;

a second member provided with an information input unite said second member having an outer surface for exposing the information input unit;

a hinge member pivotally connecting said first and second members with each other so that said first and second members are pivotable between: (i) a portable position in which said first and second members overlap each other such that the outer surface of said first member and the outer surface of said second member oppose each others and (ii) an open position in which the outer surface of said first member and the outer surface of said second member are moved away from each other so as to separate said first and second members from each other;

a photographing unit for performing a photographing operation; and

an exposed portion protecting member for protecting an exposed portion of the information input unit when said information processing apparatus is placed on a plain surface with the outer surface of said second member facing the plain surface;

wherein said information display unit provided in said first member includes a display for displaying photographic image information obtained by said photographing unit, and

wherein said information input unit provided in said second member includes at least one of: (i) a photographic conditions setting device for setting various photographing conditions of said photographing unit, and (ii) a shutter release device for controlling a shutter of said photographing unit.

2. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein said exposed portion protecting member includes a plurality of protecting projections which project from a region of the outer surface of said second member surrounding the exposed portion of the information input unit, said plurality of protecting projections each having a height which is larger than a height of the exposed portion of the information input unit.

3. An apparatus according to claim **2**, wherein said first member includes a plurality of depressed portions at positions on of the outer surface thereof which correspond to positions of the plurality of the protecting projections on the outer surface of said second member when said first and second members are located at the portable position, said plurality of depressed portions being able to respectively receive said plurality of protecting projections of said second member.

4. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein said exposed portion protecting member projects from the outer surface of said second member further than the exposed portion of the information input unit projects from the outer surface of said second member at regions surrounding the exposed portion of the information input unit except at an access portion of the exposed portion of the information input unit.

5. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein said exposed portion protecting member sets a connecting portion of said hinge member at which said hinge is connected to said second member higher than a portion of said second member which includes the exposed portion of the information input unit.

6. A portable information processing apparatus comprising:

a photographing unit for performing a photographing operation;

an information display unit for displaying photographic image information obtained by said photographing unit;

an information processing unit for recognizing a reception of a predetermined detection signal which corresponds to an operation for setting an action mode of said apparatus to a photographing mode; and

a display circuit for displaying on a portion of said information display unit a pattern which functions as an operation panel for operating the photographing unit when said information processing unit recognizes the reception of the predetermined detection signal which corresponds to the operation for setting the action mode of said apparatus to the photographing mode.

7. An apparatus according to claim **6**, further comprising an information storage unit for storing photographic image information obtained by said photographing unit, said information storage unit being provided with an information storage medium port through which an independent information storage medium can be inserted into the information storage unit and removed therefrom.

8. A portable information processing apparatus comprising:

a photographing unit which performs a photographing operation to obtain photographic image information;

an information display unit which displays information for controlling said portable information processing apparatus and the photographic image information obtained by said photographing unit;